

Medicare system, the future education of our children, affordable housing, be placed in Republican hands, then the situation is worse than I ever thought.

No, you do not have to be an economist to figure this move out. What we are talking about is borrowing money, making insecure the Social Security system, privatizing the Medicare system, not having enough funds to and keeping every child behind. And why are we doing this? Are we borrowing it for spending, or are we borrowing it for tax cuts? I think the American people understand what we are doing.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the motion.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM).

The motion to instruct was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

For consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. THOMAS, DELAY and RANGEL.
There was no objection.

□ 1145

VETERANS COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1683.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. At this point, the unfinished business will be deferred until a later moment in time.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1588, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 247 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 247

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1588) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes. No further amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and

amendments en bloc described in section 2. Each amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report (except as specified in section 3), may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. Each amendment printed in the report shall be debatable for 10 minutes (unless otherwise specified in the report) equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment (except that the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services each may offer one pro forma amendment for the purpose of further debate on any pending amendment). All points of order against amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules or amendments en bloc described in section 2 are waived.

Sec. 2. It shall be in order at any time for the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules not earlier disposed of or germane modifications of any such amendment. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read (except that modifications shall be reported), shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. For the purpose of inclusion in such amendments en bloc, an amendment printed in the form of a motion to strike may be modified to the form of a germane perfecting amendment to the text originally proposed to be stricken. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may insert a statement in the Congressional Record immediately before the disposition of the amendments en bloc.

Sec. 3. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may recognize for consideration of any amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules out of the order printed, but not sooner than one hour after the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services or a designee announces from the floor a request to that effect.

Sec. 4. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. FROST, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Yesterday, the Committee on Rules met and granted a structured rule for H.R. 1588, the National Defense Author-

ization Act for Fiscal Year 2004. This rule provides for further consideration of the bill and makes in order only those amendments printed in the Committee on Rules report accompanying the resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 2 of the resolution.

The amendments printed in the report shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, except as specified in section 3 of the resolution, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

Each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes, unless otherwise specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment, except that the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services may each offer one pro forma amendment for the purpose of further debate on any pending amendment.

Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

This is a fair rule. It is a traditional, structured rule for defense authorization, and it provides for debate on 30 additional amendments that deal with pertinent issues, including personnel issues, maritime security, quality-of-life issues for our servicemen and women, and a number of noncontroversial concerns.

The most controversial of these measures is certain to be the modernization of the personnel system. Modernizing the management system is imperative to national security and the retention and recruitment of civilian personnel.

The Committee on Armed Services believes that the important lessons learned from various demonstration projects within DOD should be applied across the Department. These projects have shown to improve the expeditious hiring of qualified personnel, have been valuable in providing flexible personnel compensation and assignment systems, and have improved organizational efficiency. These demonstration projects have also been highly successful in attracting and maintaining high-quality work forces.

The reforms included in this legislation would be similar to the flexibility provided to the Department of Homeland Security.

Finally, I believe that the Secretary of Defense should have more flexible management authority.

H.R. 1588 is more than just a signal to our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines that this Nation recognizes their sacrifices. It is the means by which we meet our commitment to providing them a decent quality of life by providing an across-the-board 4.1 percent pay increase for military personnel, so as to sustain the commitment and professionalism of America's all-voluntary

Armed Forces and the families that support them.

While our men and women in uniform have swiftly dispatched our enemies abroad, they face increasingly complex personal and professional challenges at home. We must do more to take care of those who are putting their lives on the line to defend our freedom, and for the families that support them.

Currently, the Survivor Benefit Program for the survivor of an injured or ill service member who lives long enough to be disability retired is better than the benefit for the survivor of a service member who dies instantaneously. I am deeply concerned about this inequity and am pleased that this legislation recommends that the Secretary of Defense review SPB procedures and propose legislation to ensure equitable treatment for the survivors of all members of our military, regardless of their circumstances.

With Memorial Day on Monday, it is only fitting to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our country. Let us take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to those who are currently defending our homeland and abroad by passing this rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, for all of my 25 years in Congress I have worked for a strong national defense. Like so many pro-defense Democrats, I have bent over backwards to put politics aside and work together to support America's men and women in uniform. That cooperative approach is fundamental to our efforts to keep partisan politics from polluting the Armed Forces.

So, repeatedly on the House floor and in the Committee on Rules, I have urged the Republican leadership to stop their assault on the bipartisan cooperation that has defined our approach to defense policy for so long. In response, the chairman of the Committee on Rules kept holding out hope that maybe, just maybe, in this second rule for the defense authorization bill the committee would allow a full and bipartisan consideration of serious defense issues.

Last night, very late, the Committee on Rules reported out the second rule. Guess what? It does even more violence to the tradition of bipartisanship than the first rule did. For the second day in a row, the Republican leadership has prevented the House from considering serious and substantive issues in the defense authorization bill. For the second day in a row, they cast aside bipartisanship to protect the partisan and right-wing ideology that has been attached to this defense authorization bill. This is a shameful way to run this

institution, an institution that is supposed to allow the voices of all Americans to be heard.

For instance, Republican leaders used this rule to again defend their assault on America's environmental protections. The ranking members of the Committee on Resources and the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), offered their reasonable substitute to Republicans on environmental language. Republican leaders refused to allow the House to vote on this substitute.

To prevent terrorists from getting nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT), the second ranking Democrat on the Committee on Armed Services and an acknowledged expert on defense issues, once again tried to strengthen America's cooperative threat reduction program, but the Republican leadership once again refused to allow his amendment, in spite of the fact that it simply does what President Bush has asked for.

To protect the American taxpayers, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) tried to require that contracts over \$1 million be awarded only in open bidding process, but Republican leaders decided to make it easier for big companies, for example, Halliburton, Brown and Root, Bechtel, to get private deals, so they rejected the amendment of the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

The gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR), a staunch defense hawk from Mississippi, had a substantive amendment relating to the next round of base closures. But instead of allowing him and the House the vote they deserve, Republican leaders simply shut out his amendment.

Similarly, Committee on Rules Republicans blocked three important amendments that I offered to address defense issues that I have pursued for some time: helping immigrant soldiers earn U.S. citizenship, providing tuition refunds to Reservists called to active duty, and tax fairness for civilian defense employees serving in combat zones.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Republican leaders are using this rule to rig the game in favor of their attack on worker rights at the Pentagon. Now, these are the same Pentagon employees who showed such bravery and sacrifice on September 11. So the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) proposed an employees' bill of rights. It is a common-sense approach to protecting those public servants who work to protect us. It has the support of America's firefighters. But Republican leaders refused to allow the House to vote to protect Pentagon employees.

All in all, Mr. Speaker, this rule makes a mockery of the bipartisan co-

operation that has been the keystone to our approach to defense policy, so I urge my colleagues to oppose the previous question.

If we defeat the previous question, I will amend the rule to allow the House to consider the Pentagon employee bill of rights. If the previous question passes, I urge a no vote on this rule. This is the only way to restore some semblance of bipartisanship to this process and to safeguard America's national defense policy from the partisanship and right wing ideology that are tainting this bill.

□ 1200

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this rule. It follows the procedure which, as I said here yesterday, has been addressed year after year.

We are coming forward with a second rule which has a wide range of amendments. Contrary to what my friend from Dallas just said, this is a very bipartisan bill. And I will make a prediction, Mr. Speaker. At the end of the day we will have strong bipartisan support, Democrats and Republicans, voting for the Defense Authorization Bill.

Now, as we proceed with this process that has just been described as, frankly, less than bipartisan, the rule that we are addressing here happens to include amendments from my fellow Californian (Mr. LANTOS), the ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations; my friend, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), has an amendment in order; my Committee on Rules colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), has an amendment that is made in order. There is a bipartisan amendment that my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), is working with some Republican colleagues on.

We have amendments made in order by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY), the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER). The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) has two amendments that are made in order. My colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), came to me and asked that we make in order an amendment that dealt with an important issue to him. We made that in order.

Those are all Democrats I have talked about, Mr. Speaker. So I think it is clear that we have, in fact, proceeded in a bipartisan way to try to allow some concerns that have come forward by our Democratic colleagues to be addressed.

Now, I do know that these two hot buttons of civilian personnel and environmental questions are still out there. Now, I happen to believe that while we did consider this process, as we considered the option of other amendments, we did come to the conclusion that, in fact, the Hefley language that was included in the Hunter amendment was the appropriate way to deal with this issue.

Yesterday, a number of us had a chance to meet with our colleague, with our former colleague, now Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and talked about the environmental consequence and what impact this will have on our young men and women in uniform. And I know that the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), has talked about that and we heard some horror stories of what compliance has in fact done. But this measure does not, in fact, eliminate the compliance with important legislation like the Endangered Species Act and the Mammal Protection Act.

Now, I know on the civilian personnel question we also have this issue that has come to the forefront. Now, I went through this explanation and I know that my very good friend, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), has come forward and we have now had, and I will acknowledge a change in positions, but initially a request was made of me that we consider making in order an amendment that would strike out the civilian personnel provisions. Why? Because they have made it very clear that they do not like those provisions.

Well, what has happened, Mr. Speaker, is there has been a change that has taken place since that time. I recognize we could, in fact, deal with that change; but we chose to approach the minority leadership and indicate that we would be willing as was first asked of me to make in order an amendment that would allow for the striking of the civilian personnel provisions; and they decided that they did not want to have that considered. And so now they are complaining that we have not made another amendment in order. And, yes, it is true, we had nearly 100 amendments submitted to us. We did not make an additional amendment in order on that issue. But we still, Mr. Speaker, are proceeding in a bipartisan way making numerous amendments. In fact, 11 amendments that Democrats have submitted are made in order.

I will be offering an amendment in a bipartisan way with my colleague, the gentlewoman from Northern California (Ms. LOFGREN), to deal with the very important computer security issue which I hope we will have bipartisan support on.

So I do want to say, contrary to what we will be hearing, the spirit of this rule has been pursued in a bipartisan way as has been the legislation. I urge support of the previous question. I urge support of the rule, and I urge my col-

leagues to come together and provide strong support for the critically important defense of our Nation.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My friend from California, the chairman, I am afraid has somewhat of a selective memory. I have handled the defense authorization rules on this floor for 25 years; and when we were in the majority, we always made in order the main issues of contention under the defense bill. Sometimes they were amendments that I personally opposed and that other prodefense Members on the Democratic side opposed, but we made them in order so that the House could express its will on the main issues raised in the Defense Authorization Bill.

This happened on numerous occasions. Sometimes those amendments came from people to my left in the Democratic Party who perhaps wanted to eliminate certain weapons systems. Sometimes those amendments came from conservative Republicans who did not like things that were in the bill. The main issues, not peripheral issues, and we appreciate the fact that some issues were made in order, some amendments were made in order that individual Members felt strongly about; but when we were in the majority, when there were significant issues that had support from a large number of Members either on our side or on the Republican side, we made those amendments in order and let the House express its will.

There were numerous instances when I personally voted against amendments that were included in the rule that we made in order and that other prodefense Democrats opposed, but we thought that the House should have the opportunity to express its will.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FROST. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding. I would simply respond by saying, first, I do appreciate the fact that when Democrats were in the majority, they did allow for consideration of a wide range of Members. I would argue that we made every attempt to deal with both the civilian personnel issue as well as the environmental issue; and we tried to do so in a bipartisan way, as I outlined, by approaching the minority leadership saying the request that was first made of me, that we allow for a striking provision to be made in order. We said we were willing to do that.

On the issue of the environment, the Hefley language, which I know was worked on in a bipartisan way, is in fact included in the Hunter measure. I would argue that we tried our doggonedest to do just what was said.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. FROST. Reclaiming my time, I would point out to the gentleman that when we were in the majority we did

not try and dictate what amendments the minority will offer. We did not say, we will give you a Democratic amendment on that subject but the Republicans cannot offer the amendment they want. That is exactly what they have done in the reverse here. They said, we will give you a Republican amendment on this subject, but we will not let the Democrats offer the amendments they want. Of course, Democrats would offer a different amendment on a particular issue than Republicans would. Republicans would offer an amendment which was, of course, much more friendly to the basic provisions in the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT).

(Mr. SPRATT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, during the floor debate yesterday, the Committee on Rules chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), addressed our complaints by saying, what are you arguing about? We have another rule coming up. Your complaints are premature. As if to suggest we would have another day.

Well, that day has come. Rule number two has arrived; and just to show you how much bipartisanship there is, my amendment which deals with an important project, cooperative threat reduction, destroying weapons of mass destruction in Russia, the former Soviet Union, the Dingell-Rahall amendment which would correct outrageous grants of authority over environmental laws granted to the Department of Defense under this bill, the Cooper-Davis-Van Hollen amendment which goes to the most radical revision of the civil service in the last hundred years with respect to the Department of Defense, all of those substantive amendments are not made in order.

So what we will have here is a sterile, almost pro forma, debate because what is left in contention, really challengeable, is not what is really at fault in this bill at all. We cannot have that debate. We see that substantive alternatives which we are offering, not controversial, not partisan gotcha bills, substantive alternatives simply cannot be brought up here.

What the Republican majority is doing is using procedural devices which they control with a thin majority to deny us fair consideration on substantive issues of the utmost gravity. They may not agree with it, but they cannot dispute the fact that all of these are grave and significant issues.

Let me tell you what my amendment would have done. My amendment would simply have taken this bill and removed from it all kinds of encumbrances, fences, conditions that the President did not seek, request, and does not want with respect to a program called Cooperative Threat Reduction, known better to some as Nunn-Lugar, and with respect in particular

to one project, Shchuch'ye, which is the largest repository of the deadliest chemical weapons that the Soviet Union ever produced. After years of negotiating, years of preparation, we are finally at the threshold of beginning a facility that will destroy those weapons.

I was there last May. I have got two posters here that show you what those facilities look like. Wooden roofs. Look at the windows over here with the makeshift bars on them. That is the kind of security they have got. And on the racks, rack after rack, sitting on dirt floors, wooden racks, what you find are little chemical warheads like that, literally thousands upon thousands of them, gathering dust like bottles of wine, barely secured, any one of which could wipe out the population of a soccer stadium, all of which could poison the entire world. Nerve gas, sarin. The deadliest stuff you could possibly imagine. Do we not want to get rid of this?

Is there any reason to wait. Can we not have at least here in the well of the House a debate on whether or not we need these conditions that the chairman of this committee have imposed? I do not think we do. All I ask is with the 21 years of experience that I have had is the opportunity to make that case in the well of the House. You have diminished the House and diminished this process by denying me that opportunity.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER), another member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 247. The Committee on Rules has listened to hours of testimony and made in order 39 total amendments, nine amendments in yesterday's first rule and 30 amendments under the new rule before us today. We made in order 22 majority amendments, 14 minority amendments, and three bipartisan amendments. And while everyone will not be pleased by these decisions, it is a fair rule that will give the House the opportunity to debate a wide variety of national security issues.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation, H.R. 1588, is entirely consistent with what the founders envisioned when they wrote article I, section 8 of U.S. Constitution, to ensure that Congress shall have the power to support, maintain, and provide for military to provide for the common defense.

First, this legislation provides adequate funding to help continue the U.S. military's transition to the 21st century. H.R. 1588, for example, authorizes funding for the U.S. Army to procure weapons and tracked combat vehicles for the U.S. Navy for shipbuilding and conversion and for the U.S. Air Force to procure additional aircraft, including language to maintain the important F/A-22 program.

The authorization for these programs, along with others, will help the U.S. military remain the most efficient, most lethal, and most effective fighting force on Earth. But, Mr. Speaker, we cannot possibly hope to maintain the level of excellence obtained by the U.S. military without the achievements of men and women who proudly wear the uniform.

As a former captain in the U.S. Air Force myself, I continue to draw inspiration from the resolve, patriotism, and strength of commitment exhibited by our servicemen and women. This Congress must work to reinforce that strength, and I believe H.R. 1588 works to that end.

I am pleased that the underlying legislation contains a 4.1 increase in base pay for military personnel. H.R. 1588 also recommends a reduction from 7.5 to 3.5 in the percentage of out-of-pocket expenses military personnel must contribute toward housing cost. Both of these provisions will not only help ease the burden placed on military personnel and their families, but should also help ensure that the U.S. military is able to retain these highly trained personnel.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is outrageous that the rule proposed by the Republican leadership denies the 435 Members of this House the opportunity to vote on the amendment to restore certain rights and protections for the 700,000 civil servant employees within the Department of Defense, rights and protections that are stripped away under the underlying bill. It is particularly sad to see this just after those civil servants joined together with our military in such a successful military operation in Iraq.

Yet this bill does away with so many protections. For example, it takes away the time-honored protections to ensure that civil servants will have their professional career advancement based on merit and professional conduct, rather than political litmus tests.

□ 1215

Do we want our contract officers, do we want our procurement officers to be looking over their shoulder to see if their decision is based on what is best for the taxpayer or best politically for someone in the Defense Department? And yet this bill eliminates those protections that have been in place since Teddy Roosevelt.

Let me just say that the amendment that was proposed, and I will read a provision of the amendment that is being denied an opportunity for us to vote on: "An employee shall have the right to be free of favoritism or discrimination in connection with hiring, tenure, promotion or other conditions of employment due to the employee's

political opinion or affiliation." But they do not want us to have an opportunity to vote on that provision.

The head of the nonpartisan General Accounting Office, David Walker, when he was asked about this issue, said, "I do not believe that we have the infrastructure in place in order to effectively and fairly move to a more performance-based compensation structure at this time." In response to a question, he said, "I think the agency has to demonstrate that they have these systems and controls in place before they should be given the flexibility."

Mr. Speaker, do we want our Defense Department, the civil servants, to be run using professional judgment, which I think is in the best interest of national security, or do we want them to be driven more by political considerations? I think our national security depends on a nonpolitical, professional civil service; and it is very disappointing that the amendment was not made in order.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule.

When I testified before the Committee on Rules, Mr. Speaker, I specifically asked that committee for several major amendments. Democratic amendments, and that they be made in order. The first was the Cooper amendment dealing with civil service changes, which would establish a bill of rights for civilian workers within that department. The second, the Spratt amendment, on cooperative threat reduction, which, by the way, Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States requested. The third, the Taylor amendment on base closure. We should have a full and fair debate on that. And the Dingell-Rahall amendment on the environment. The dean of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), was not given that amendment. As a matter of fact, none of those four amendments were made in order. That is, Mr. Speaker, simply wrong.

Regardless of how Members might feel on the substance of amendments, it is wrong that a major substantive policy amendment is kept from debate. That should not happen. It should be allowed. It should be debated fully on this floor. This is a deliberative body, and many have said the most deliberative body in the whole world. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we cannot debate key issues that come before us. This is not a full debate. It deserves that. We in this institution do not deserve this disservice, and I cannot agree, sadly, with this rule.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL).

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Well, here we are again, my dear colleagues, *deja vu* all over again.

The Republicans told us yesterday how they were going to have a second rule. Well, the second rule is just like the first, unfair, stifling debate, and not allowing discussion.

We are told it is bipartisan. It reminds me of the story of a fellow who complained about the stew. He was told it is horse and rabbit stew. He said, what is the recipe? They said, oh, it is simple. Equal parts, one horse, one rabbit. He said, no wonder it tastes like hell.

The simple fact of the matter is that is what we have here. That is the Republican definition of bipartisanship.

They exclude seven significant amendments. Why? I can only assume one of several reasons: They are scared to death to debate them; they want to be unfair; they have not got the vaguest ideas of what is fairness or how a representative body should function. I suspect all of the above are there. In any event, it tends to show they either know or care less about fairness than a hawk does about a handsaw.

What have they denied us the right to do? Legislation to address environmental concerns. Legislation to address the problem of chemical and nuclear weapons. Imagine what is going to happen if the Spratt amendment does not go into place and all of a sudden terrorists show up with nuclear weapons, or they show up with weapons of chemical or biological character because they got them out of a leaky stockpile in Russia? They do away with the opportunity to offer an open bidding requirement on contracts over \$1 million. That says that they probably are scared to discuss this issue. They will not discuss the question of base closings. They refuse to help immigrant soldiers to get citizenship and for us to offer an amendment to allow that.

Now there are certain things about a representative body that I have to assume my Republican friends either do not care about or they do not know about. My dear Republican colleagues serve here as the servants of the people. This is the House of Representatives, with emphasis on the word representatives. We are all supposed to represent the House. My Republican colleagues are supposed to represent in the House the people whom they serve. They are also supposed to respect all of the people who are served here and to allow wide, broad, fair, discussion of important issues.

Is there a shortage of time to debate? Absolutely not. We meet about 3 days a week. But my Republican friends do not seem to have time to discuss important questions. I can only assume it is because they do not understand our duty to the people.

My Republican colleagues are creating a precedent which is bad. First of

all, we do not debate the issues that are important. Second of all, my colleagues are creating a poisonous atmosphere in this place which is going to continue and to persist for a long time. The ability of this institution to properly debate questions and to have respect for each other and for the people we serve is being demeaned by this rule. I say, shame.

Let us defeat the rule, let us defeat the previous question, let us get the House back to being what it should be, the representatives of the people.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER).

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to second the remarks of the dean of the House, my friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL).

Last night, in this great Capitol building, about 10 p.m., the Committee on Rules was meeting. Our friends on the other side of the aisle had just come back from their lavish dinner at which the newspapers report they raised some \$22 million for the Republicans. They voted on this rule, and they voted to deny this House the opportunity to work its will on \$47 billion in the DOD budget.

That is a matter of some concern, because that is one of the largest items in the entire bill, and the House is unable to work its will on it due to their denial of an amendment. But more important than that, they denied over 700,000 DOD employees to have this section of the bill aired and debated. Over 700,000 families who work for our Pentagon worldwide are not able to hear their concerns aired on the floor of this House.

This is the people's House, yet over 700,000 patriotic and loyal Americans who have served this Nation well in the Iraq war, in the Afghan war, and let us remember 65 of these civilians died in the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon, but, no, this House is too busy to consider their concerns. That is not fair, that is not right, and this House should demand justice.

These are important civil servants of our Nation. They work hard every day to keep our Nation strong. Only last week our committee bothered to commend them for their skill, their hard work and dedication. But, no, their concerns are not important enough to be aired on the floor of this House.

We had one hearing in the Committee on Armed Services, we had no subcommittee markup, and now we are unable to debate the issue on the floor of this House. It is an injustice.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman yielding me this time.

First of all, civil servants have had a large role in shaping this. There have been nine pilot programs the Depart-

ment of Defense has piloted through the years, and in all of those cases, civil servants have, in many cases contrary to the labor bosses, opted for the new system as opposed to the old system with which they are currently operating.

The problem with the current system today is that we are contracting out where we ought to be able to use Federal employees because we do not have the flexibility in terms of deployment. So we are using uniformed officers behind desks to get jobs done, Federal contractors to get jobs done, what Federal workers are, in many cases, more capable of doing, and that is wrong.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I agree with the gentleman. I think that this bill is going to provide for more jobs for civil service employees because it is easier when we have a job to do under this massive bureaucracy we have now and the SECDEF says, I need that job done, can we have a civil servant do it? And the answer is, we can in 6 months. So the Secretary then does one of two things: He says, okay, let us get a contractor to do it, if we cannot get one of our own guys to do it the other alternative is let us get a sergeant to do it. The sergeant salutes and says, yes, sir, can he go and gets the information he needs to do the job and he does it.

So the idea that we are going to be contracting the civil service force as a result of this is absolutely not accurate. In my opinion, we are going to have more people. Secretary Rumsfeld said there are, right now, under his estimate, some 300,000 uniformed people, people in the military, doing jobs that civil service folks could do if we could get the bureaucracy out of the way.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman, but let me just say it is 320,000 uniform personnel doing jobs that civil servants are certainly capable of doing. These are 320,000 we had to call up from the Reserves to do work, potentially, that could have gone and stayed with their families and everything else because of these arcane rules.

In addition to this, Under Secretary Wolfowitz testified under oath that this would increase the number of Federal civil servants. So this idea that it is going to lead to more contracting out is not only bunk, it is disingenuous, it is wrong, and I think it takes civil servants in the wrong direction.

Let me correct a couple of other things that have been said in the debate. We had a Member yesterday say that the right to receive veterans preference is gone, the right to discrimination protection, gone. Veterans preference, located in chapters 33 and 35 of title V, those are nonwaivable under this legislation. Discrimination protection is located in 2302(b)(2) of title V

and explicitly referred to in this legislation. Overtime pay in chapter 55 of title V, also nonwaivable.

In fact, for middle-level managers, what we have done is corrected some inequities in overtime pay. Currently, GS-12s, 13s, and 14s receive less working overtime than they receive in ordinary pay, and we have corrected that in this. This is a benefit to managers. We have raised the level that SES's and managers can get in bonus over what the current level is. So we have raised the levels of what Federal employees can earn.

As far as collective bargaining, NSPS states that we must ensure that employees may organize, bargain collectively, and participate through labor organizations of their own choosing. As for the right to an attorney, which was alleged to have been taken away, we do not mention it, but neither does the underlying legislation, and we have established an independent review panel to consider employee grievances.

We have worked hard on this legislation. We held a couple of hearings in the Committee on Government Reform on this, but, most importantly, this is designed from nine pilot programs where the Federal employees themselves have spoken to this and have voted strongly to opt for the new systems versus the existing system. It does not pay for performance; it pays on a seniority basis.

This will allow us to expedite hiring. It will allow us to do the kinds of things that we have already given other Federal agencies. This is not new ground. There are numerous Federal agencies currently, in sections 71, 73, and 75, that we have waived or altered, and we do this here. In fact, there is less flexibility here than Congress recently gave to the Department of Homeland Security.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, I might add, my colleagues who are arguing against this opposed those provisions in the Department of Homeland Security bill. We had an ensuing election on this issue. The voters spoke, and I think we have visited this issue once. There are fewer flexibilities here than we have in that as well.

I want to say a couple of other things. The Committee on Armed Services also had a day-long hearing and a 2-day markup of the DOD authorization bill. Dozens of the amendments offered there were also offered in our committee, and the votes were party line on these issues. They want to bring these same issues to the floor. I am not happy with every part of this rule. I had several amendments, particularly on the procurement side, that were part of the Committee on Government Reform's markup that were not included in the DOD bill that I could not get offered here. I understand the disappointment of those Members who are not able to have those heard at this point.

But 40,000 employees with over 20 years of experience want a new system, and defense of the current system not

only leads to more outsourcing, it does not lead to the kind of performance-based pay and the salary levels that many of our best Federal employees are deserving of.

I worked in the private sector for a number of years. I worked for a company where our best asset was not our computers or our building; it was our people. They walked out the door every night; and we prayed to get them back because replacing them was costly, it created more inefficiencies, and it made us less competitive.

Those factors in the private sector ought to be extended to the public sector because our employees are our best asset, too. But I think we need to treat them well, I think we need to give them appropriate safeguards, which this legislation does. The unknown and the concerns by some on the other side are that all of this is not written by Congress. But we have put appropriate safeguards in this legislation. This will be part of a later debate, but I certainly support the rule.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I understand his assertion. His assertion essentially is that these provisions that will affect our Federal employees are positive provisions.

If that is the case, on our side we are very concerned that we are not being allowed to debate these fully. As the gentleman knows, 30 amendments are allowed with 10 minutes per amendment. The gentleman will admit, I think, that these are very substantial changes that we are making in the law; am I correct on that?

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. As I stated earlier, we debated these thoroughly in both committees. I cannot speak to every amendment that is being offered on the floor of the House. I understand the gentleman's concern. I know we will get debate on the motion to recommit, and we are debating it now. But I was also disappointed in not being able to offer some amendments. In addressing that issue, I think that is probably above my pay grade.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I tell my friend, and he and I work very closely on issues dealing with Federal employees, there is a tendency to undervalue our Federal employees, as the gentleman knows. But the concern we have is if the other side is so concerned that the propositions it puts before us are correct, then it is a shame that we do not allow this body to fully debate them. I understand there were votes in committee. However, I am not on the Committee on Government Reform.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Although we were privileged to have the gentleman testify before us.

Mr. HOYER. I did appreciate the opportunity to come and testify, notwithstanding the fact that the committee did not follow my advice. My point is that the majority of Members on both

sides of the aisle are not on your committee or the Committee on Armed Services, and I think it would have been appropriate for us to debate these items. If the proposals are as good as the gentleman says they are, presumably they would have been supported by the majority of this House.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. I appreciate the gentleman's comments, and we did take some of his suggestions in the markup. The gentleman's testimony was not for naught.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, let me just say that the distinguished whip on the other side has made a point that more time should be given to this issue.

We are doing a \$400 billion bill; and arguably the decisions on hundreds of weapons system that we are approving, both whether we are talking about the high-tech stuff or the low-tech stuff that we are bolstering in this bill, those decisions could have life and death impact, and yet we moved this bill through.

I want to assure the gentleman that we gave more time to this issue. We did a 10-hour hearing on this issue, largely at the insistence of the distinguished ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), but we did a 10-hour hearing. That is more time than we gave any single weapons system in the entire DOD bill. So the argument can be made that we should have 10 times as many hearings as we have, and the gentleman knows that in this House and on this floor we have a myriad of responsibilities. We spent more time on this than any single weapons system in the entire DOD bill, and we had a 25-hour markup. I would say a very substantial portion of that markup, without limitation to debate, was afforded all of the Members.

Lastly, the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform makes a good point. I listened to the concerns. I listened early on to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS). We sat down and put together this independent appeals board that is going to be afforded anyone and everyone. So we spent a lot of time on this. This was not hastily thrown together.

Lastly, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) made a good point. He said we are putting a major entrustment to the Secretary of Defense to build a new system, and we all agree in many ways it is broken. I am looking at this union dispute over whether they should have cancelled the annual picnic, and it ended up costing \$750,000 of taxpayer money to decide whether or not you should cancel the picnic. There are changes that need to be made.

Lots of good people involved themselves on this and worked on this; and

this is an excellent, excellent product. I want to thank everybody who had suggestions because a number of the concerns from Democrats and Republicans were addressed. We are entrusting the Secretary of Defense, who with his team took 300,000 American lives into a very dangerous military theater, and answered to us and did a good job with that entrustment. He deserves some degree of respect, and he has merited the empowerment to move forward and build a new system under our guidance.

We are going to be reviewing everything he has done in a few months. We can change things that he does that we do not like; but certainly giving him an opportunity to revamp his shop to make it better, not just for DOD and the taxpayers but also for the folks that live and work in this system, the Federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, I think we did a good job of working this. We can always spend more time, and I would say to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) that could be said about every single weapons system that comes up here.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to make an observation to the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Armed Services. The gentleman and I served in this body when this bill had 5 full days of debate, discussion and open amendments in which we had very extensive discussions on not only weapons systems but other proposals contained in the bill.

I am probably going to end up voting for this bill. As the gentleman knows, I have consistently supported authorization bills and appropriation bills. I believe this Nation needs a strong defense, and I respect the Secretary of Defense. But I would say to the gentleman that it would have been nice if the Secretary had respected the Members of the House on both sides of the aisle and presented this at the beginning of the year and not just a few weeks ago so we could have had more extensive discussions, as we have had on some of those weapons systems heretofore. None of them were offered just recently. They were offered early in the year or in years past; but I recognize what the gentleman said. Obviously, we do not have unlimited time for unlimited debate.

I would suggest in this instance this proposal, a very substantive one, came very late; and although the gentleman spent some time in committee on it, appropriately, and I thank the gentleman for that, it would have been nice if we would have had more extensive debate and substantive amendments on this floor.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I include for the RECORD an editorial from the Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld, printed in today's Washington Post.

DEFENSE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

(By Donald H. Rumsfeld)

Rep. Ike Skelton (D-Mo.) laid out a number of objections on this page yesterday to the president's proposed Defense Transformation Act for the 21st Century. I respect Mr. Skelton's long service, but I disagree with many of his stated objections. Here is why.

Skelton argues that this legislation is the most sweeping overhaul of the Defense Department since the 1986 Goldwater-Nichols Act. He may be right—but that is precisely the point. We are at this moment fighting the first wars of the 21st century with a department that has management and personnel systems developed decades ago, at the height of the Cold War.

The threats we face today are notably different from that era. We learned on Sept. 11, 2001, that our nation is vulnerable to enemies who hide in the caves and shadows and strike in unexpected ways. That is why we must transform our armed forces. Our forces need to be flexible, light and agile, so they can respond quickly and deal with surprise. The same is true of the men and women who support them in the Department of Defense. They also need flexibility, so that they can move money, shift people, design and deploy new weapons more rapidly and respond to the continuing changes in our security environment.

Today we do not have that kind of agility. In an age—the information age—when terrorists move information at the speed of an e-mail, money at the speed of a wire transfer and people at the speed of a commercial jetliner, the Defense Department is still bogged down in the bureaucratic processes of the industrial age.

Consider: we have more than 300,000 uniformed personnel doing jobs that should be done by civilians. That means that nearly three times the number of troops that were on the ground in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom are doing nonmilitary jobs that should be done by civilian personnel.

Why is that? It's because when managers in the department want to get a job done, they go to the military. They know they can manage military people, put them in a job, give them guidance, transfer them from one task to another and change the way they do things. They can't do that with the civil service, because it is managed outside the Defense Department by others, with a system of rules and requirements fashioned for a different era.

The defense authorization bill has grown from only one page in 1962 to a whopping 534 pages in 2001. The department is required to prepare and submit some 26,000 pages of justification, and more than 800 required reports to Congress each year—many of marginal value, most probably not read. Since 1975, the time it takes to produce a new weapons system has doubled, even as new technologies are arriving in years and months, not decades.

We are working to fix problems that we have the freedom to fix. We have reduced management and headquarters staffs by 11 percent, streamlined the acquisition process by eliminating hundreds of pages of unnecessary rules and red tape, and begun implementing a new business management structure. But we also need legislative relief. That is why we are asking for:

Measures for transforming our system of personnel management, so that we can gain more flexibility and agility in the way we manage the more than 700,000 civilians in the department. And let me be clear: The provisions we have proposed explicitly bar nepotism.

Expanded authority for competitive outsourcing so that we can get military per-

sonnel out of nonmilitary tasks and back into the field.

Measures to protect our military training ranges so that our men and women in uniform will be able to train as they fight, while honoring our steadfast commitment to protecting the environment.

It is true, as Rep. Skelton notes, that the Goldwater-Nichols Act took four years for Congress to pass. But we do not have four years to wait before we transform—the new threats are here now. If anything, our experience in the global war on terror has made the case for transformation even more urgent. Because our enemies are watching us—studying how we were successfully attacked, how we are responding and how we might be vulnerable again. In distant caves and bunkers, they are busy developing new ways to harm our people—methods of attack that could kill not 3,000 people, but 30,000 or 300,000—or more. And they are not struggling with bureaucratic red tape fashioned in the last century as they do so.

The fact is that the transformation of our military capabilities depends on the transformation of the way the Defense Department operates. This does not mean an end to congressional oversight. What it means is that we need to work together to ensure the department has the flexibility to keep up with the new threats emerging as this century unfolds.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN).

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule and the underlying bill. My colleague from Virginia only said one thing that is correct, and that is our Federal employees are our greatest resource. Unfortunately, in this bill they are treated very poorly.

In this bill, the Secretary of Defense can waive collective bargaining. That was designed to allow employee input into working conditions and grievances. He talks about Federal employees, but every Federal employee organization opposes this language.

The Secretary of Defense would be allowed to exempt the Department of Defense from the Federal wage schedule that was designed to prevent discrimination and nepotism.

The Secretary of Defense is allowed to exempt the Department of Defense from due process and appeals rights, appeals to the Equal Opportunity Commission, fighting discrimination.

This bill would authorize the Secretary of Defense to bypass OPM and create an entirely new personnel system.

It authorizes the Secretary to have authority under this proposal to take action at his sole, exclusive, and unreviewable discretion.

The Secretary of Defense, in an opinion piece in *The Washington Post* yesterday, said our military needs more agility and flexibility because they are fighting terrorists in caves and bunkers. Then he cleverly transfers this reasoning to the civilian population. I ask Members why do clerks and secretaries and administrators need to be deprived of their appeals rights? They should have a fixed appeals system. They should have the rights that Federal employees have had over the years. He

makes the case for a flexible military, he does not make the case for depriving Federal employees of their rights, and he attempts to trade off agility for morale. I suggest we need to improve morale and protect our Federal employees.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make the comment that we do have a committee system in this House because not everybody can be on every committee. They make recommendations to the full House, and usually we value their opinions and accept their recommendations. That is part of what is going on today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the rule. First, on the issue we have been dealing with around civil service, none of the lessons learned and the myriad projects that we are talking about would necessarily be part of the law as it is drafted in the civil service part of the provisions in this bill. So we did have that debate and some of that discussion, but in fact none of that is relevant to the bill at all.

Second, I object to the fact that the Committee on Rules deprived this body of the opportunity to have a substantive debate on the environmental provisions, a debate about the facts.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Paul Wolfowitz, wrote in a March memo, "We have demonstrated that we are both able to comply with environmental requirements and to conduct necessary military training and testing." The administration's own EPA agrees, and that is the fact.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, for 3 years I have worked to close the military pay gap. This year at the Committee on Rules I offered an amendment to close that gap permanently, but that amendment was denied. My amendment is identical to language passed in the Senate. Over 4 years each of the quarter million soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who fought in Iraq were making a decision whether or not to stay or go in the military. Now is the time to send them and their families a message that the Members of this House care about them and the quality of their lives. Instead, we send a hastily different message with empty promises. Why is the majority silent on closing the pay gap permanently?

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

□ 1245

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, one of the problems with the way the Republicans have managed, orches-

trated the rule is that it simply does not permit an opportunity for us to clarify even simple misunderstandings.

Many of my colleagues may have listened on television to the distinguished chairman of the committee put a map up here that implied that 57 percent of Camp Pendleton was off-limits to military activities. We came to the floor and pointed out that that was simply not true. It never was. Using the flexibility under existing law, 1 percent was set aside.

The real problem with Camp Pendleton is the fact that you have got an interstate freeway, you have got encroachment from sprawl, but we could not clarify it.

I have had colleagues who misunderstood what the chairman said. I am sure it was a mistake to imply that 57 percent was off-limits to military training. The gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and I are reduced to putting out a Dear Colleague which maybe somebody will see in the blizzard of paper. It is an embarrassment to this Chamber that we cannot have a legitimate debate and clarify things like this and not mislead the public or Members of this assembly.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is aware of the map that I put up of Camp Pendleton that showed the overlays on the various environmental restrictions. I have gone through that a number of times. It has got the areas for the gnatcatcher, it has got the estuarine sanctuary, it has got the closeout for the beach. The gentleman is aware that there is about 17 miles of beach there where the Marines practice their amphibious landings. Is it the gentleman's claim that that beach is now open for use for the United States Marines?

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HUNTER. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Yes. Absolutely. This limited area, 840 acres out of 125,000 acres, is available to amphibious landings, according to the information we have received. And it only applies out of 6 months. The real problem is you have got a freeway, you have got a nuclear power plant, you have got a State park. There never was a legal restriction ever.

Mr. HUNTER. Let me ask the gentleman further, because we are going to have this thing sorted out before this bill is over. Is it the gentleman's contention that the Marine Corps' position is they understand that they can use that beach and they simply have not used it, that that beach is available for amphibious landings?

Did the gentleman ask the Marines? That is my question, I guess.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I have dealt with the Department of Defense, the

Fish and Wildlife Service and have gone to the court records. I do not know how it is being distorted.

Mr. HUNTER. Let me just tell the gentleman that if you have these agreements that they put in place, those agreements are made by several parties: one, Fish and Wildlife; one, State resources, in California that is Fish and Game; and, lastly, the Service. Since we want to make sure we are all on the same playing field here before this debate is over, I would ask the gentleman, we have got a couple of hours here, to check with the U.S. Marine Corps. I will be happy to be with him when we check on it and we can come to the floor and give together an opinion on how much land is ruled off-limits.

My information from the Marine Corps is that they cannot use that beach. That is not the small part of the beach that is up in the north that they use for the nuclear power plant. Nobody has claimed you want to make amphibious landings at a nuclear power plant.

I would ask the gentleman, since he did not have a direct communication with the Marine Corps, if he could get that, and I will work with him, and we will try to come in with the same sheet of music.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I welcome the gentleman's offer to do so and to correlate that with what the Secretary of the Interior has actually ruled in this case. I welcome it.

Mr. HUNTER. Let me just finish by saying that my information from DOD as of last week is that, currently, of that 17 miles, only roughly one-fifth of a mile, that is roughly one one-hundred-and-fiftieth or one one-hundredth of this shoreline where the Marines practice their amphibious landings is available for use. So we have got totally disparate views. The gentleman says the beach is open. The Marines tell me that the beach is closed. We will be happy to work with him and get a communication from the Marine Corps.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES).

Mr. REYES. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this very unfair rule. The bill before us today contains provisions that would give the Department of Defense unprecedented authority to develop an entirely new civil service system for its 700,000 civilian employees with little or no congressional oversight, jeopardizing many of the employee protections and rights that Federal employees have fought so hard for over the years.

How do I know this? Because before coming to Congress I was a Federal employee, a civil service employee for 26½ years.

I know that there is a lot of frustration and a lot of misinformation that

has been put forth in this. My good friend and chairman has said they had 10 hours of testimony. But when you factor in that there are 700,000 civilian employees that are going to be affected, that is .0008 minutes for each one of those employees that has been given in terms of hearings. I think our civil servants deserve better than that, and we ought to have more hearings on this issue and not just take their civil protections away as we are with this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this unfair rule.

The bill before us today contains provisions that would give the Department of Defense unprecedented authority to develop an entirely new civil service system for its 700,000 civilian employees with little or no congressional oversight, jeopardizing many employee protections that Federal workers have fought so hard for over the years.

This issue has great personal significance to me, because for more than 26 years prior to becoming a Member of Congress, I myself was a civil servant, first as a Border Patrol agent and later as a Sector Chief. When I joined the Border Patrol, I was one of only two Hispanic members of my training class. I can tell you that there were some that would have preferred that we were not part of the Border Patrol, but the civil service system protected me.

As a Sector Chief, over the objections of my superiors, I implemented what turned out to be one of the most successful programs to stop illegal immigrants from entering this country. If it were not for the civil service protections, I would have been fired immediately.

We sought to offer an amendment to help ensure that DoD civilian employees would continue to enjoy the basic protections that I was afforded as a civil servant, including the right to due process and appeal in cases of alleged discrimination, collective bargaining, and veterans preferences.

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership did not see fit to make Mr. COOPER's amendment in order, so we will not have a debate on this extraordinarily important issue.

Mr. Speaker, even GAO has said, "Congress should consider establishing additional safeguards to ensure the fair, merit-based, transparent, and accountable implementation" of DoD's civil service system. But this rule does not allow us to do that. The patriotic employees who serve our Nation at the Department of Defense deserve better.

I urge my colleague to vote "no" on the previous question and "no" on this terrible rule.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD my op-ed article entitled "Overhaul Without Oversight" from the Washington Post dated May 21.

[From the Washington Post, May 21, 2003]

OVERHAUL WITHOUT OVERSIGHT

(By Ike Skelton)

I believe history will show that the swiftness of America's military victory in Iraq

was due in large part to the in-depth training of our officers in strategy and plans and to the military's application of that training in the operational plans developed in the months before the war. Many people, including the Secretary of Defense, had detailed lists of what could go wrong. We avoided those outcomes, partly thanks to luck but mostly because of deliberate military planning that sought out and compensated for potential risks and unintended consequences.

Last month, as Congress was departing for a two-week recess, the Defense Department submitted a 200-page draft "transformation" bill that requests extensive new authorities. It is not an understatement to say that this bill, taken as a whole, is the most sweeping defense reform legislation proposed since the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986, which changed both the structure and the policies governing our military. The only thing that is obvious and consistent throughout the 50 provisions included in this bill is the aggregation of power sought for the Department of Defense, removing the legal restrictions and congressional oversight that should safeguard against any abuses, however unintentional. This approach is a rush to judgment that will affect vast numbers of people and, in many cases, will enshrine bad policy in law.

Major reassignments of constitutional authority such as this demand the same sort of thoughtful foresight as a war plan. In fact, the Goldwater-Nichols legislation took Congress four years to pass. The armed services committees of both houses of Congress held dozens of hearings and spent months drafting a comprehensive and bipartisan bill. We did this because the scope of the legislation was broad, the potentially unforeseen implications were numerous and the impact on the lives of all those who serve this nation was enormous.

The House of Representatives is to consider and vote on a defense authorization bill today that has much to commend it. It will authorize \$400 billion to ensure that our forces remain the best trained and best equipped in the world. But it will also include large pieces of the transformation package—even though the committee has held fewer than five hearings, and most of those with less than a week's notice. Without the time to investigate and ask the tough questions, we do not know what the implications of these changes are. And so we, unlike Gen. Tommy Franks in Iraq, cannot build a plan to avoid the worst outcomes.

The proposed legislation makes sweeping changes to both military and civilian personnel systems. On the civilian side, the Defense Department wants unfettered freedom to hire and fire its nearly 700,000 employees. Congress had a long, contentious debate over similar personnel proposals when creating the Department of Homeland Security. That legislation is barely being implemented now, and there has been no opportunity to evaluate its results. The Defense Department wants changes that are even more dramatic, including, just as one example, the repeal of laws preventing nepotism. What justification based on our national security or sound management principles can justify that? What message does this send to the hundreds of thousands who have dedicated their careers to the service of this nation? And why do such changes need to be rushed through now, when a successful military campaign has shown that the existing system works?

The department also is requesting extensive exemptions from a host of environmental laws that have helped safeguard the long-term health of our communities and of the global environment. As a solidly pro-military member of Congress, I believe the readiness and exceptional training of our

troops are of paramount importance and should be taken into account in our environmental laws. But the Defense Department has not yet made use of the legal remedies that already exist to accommodate military readiness. Operations in Iraq showed the exquisite capability of the U.S. military trained under the current system. Changing the law at this point has not been shown to be needed for military readiness, but it will certainly undermine the legal structure that ensures the nation's environmental health.

The Constitution establishes Congress as a counterweight to executive authority for good reasons—to guard against the excessive aggregation of any administration's power and to ask critical questions that allow better policy and better law to be made. When we in Congress are doing our jobs well, we ask what every American should want to know: Why is this necessary and what are the downsides of taking this action?

Without the ability to question and consider fully the implications of what we do, we abandon the planning needed to protect our nation's security and to protect those who serve their nation. We would not accept that of the officers planning a military campaign. We should not accept it from our political leaders either.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, we are spending \$100 billion and tragically the loss of young men and women's lives in a war in Iraq that was supposed to be about getting the weapons of mass destruction out of Saddam Hussein's hands so he could not give them to the terrorists. So far, we have not found those weapons of mass destruction.

But the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) pointed out to us that there are 5,000 tons of weapons of mass destruction in chemical weapons and gases and sarin chemical that we know exactly where they are. But the Republicans will not allow an amendment in order to protect Americans from the assault from these weapons when they fall into the hands of terrorists. We know exactly where 5,000 tons are. We have not found one ounce in Iraq.

There is also nuclear material in the same area of the former Soviet Union and in Central Asia and elsewhere in the world. But they will not allow us to clean it up. They will not allow us to secure it. They are compromising the security of this Nation because this is more likely to fall into the hands of terrorists than anything that Saddam Hussein had.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. You have to ask yourself, what are they doing to the security of this Nation when they will not allow us to go in and to secure these weapons of mass destruction?

Ladies and gentlemen, we are on Orange Alert. We are on Orange Alert as a Nation, and as a Nation and as a Congress we will not be allowed to debate the reduction of these weapons.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman's time has been expired for about 2 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

Mrs. MYRICK. The gentleman's time has expired, and he should be removed from the floor.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

Mrs. MYRICK. Nobody is begging anybody. Use your time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All Members please suspend.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California acknowledge the Chair?

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, regular order.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is no longer recognized.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the Chair, and I yield back my time.

Mr. OBEY. . . .

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All Members suspend. The Chair would observe that this is the United States House of Representatives, and respect for the decorum of this Chamber is expected by all. The gentleman from California is a distinguished gentleman, but all rules of the House and the rulings of the Speaker should be followed.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not recognized.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

Mrs. MYRICK. Regular order.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the gentleman from California. I want to compliment the gentleman from California for having the guts to finally say the rules are rigged against those Members who do not blindly follow the

Republican leadership. Every one of us represents about 700,000 people. We do not run for office saying, some of us can speak and some of us can't. Some of us can offer amendments and some of us can't. The Committee on Rules serves to do nothing but keep Members from offering their amendments.

I have got an amendment on base closure. I think every single citizen of this body ought to be recorded as being wanting to close bases or wanting to keep bases open. I have been denied the opportunity to have that vote for 3 years running now.

I have got to ask, who wants to close bases? Do the military retirees who live next to them who want to use the hospital want to close them? No. Do the military retirees who want to use the commissaries want to close them? No. Do the communities that in many instances have paid to bring those bases there like Pascagoula, Mississippi, paid \$20 million to help bring home port Pascagoula there, do they want to close them? No.

So maybe who does want to close bases? Mr. DREIER, how about your friend Katrina Leung? I think it is a fair question to ask whether or not someone who is being accused of being a Communist Chinese spy, who has contributed to your campaign, whether or not she wants to close bases.

Why can I not have a vote as a Member of this body on deciding whether or not we are going to close bases? Are we are going to listen to our Nation's military retirees? Are we going to listen to our citizens? Or are we listening to Katrina Leung?

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to vote "no" on the previous question.

If the previous question is defeated, I will offer an amendment to the rule that will make in order the Cooper/Davis/Van Hollen Civil Service Bill of Rights amendment. Last night, the Republican majority refused to allow the House to consider this amendment. The Republican leadership had decided what kind of Democratic amendment would be acceptable to be included in the rule and since no Democrat was willing to toe the Republican Party line, Democrats have been shut out once again on a straight party line vote.

The bill we are considering today makes enormous and far-reaching changes in the personnel laws affecting civilian defense employees. Furthermore, it does so with virtually no input or oversight from Congress. It leaves this massive overhaul in the hands of the Secretary of Defense.

The Cooper/Davis/Van Hollen amendment would spell out an employee bill of rights to ensure that these valuable employees do not lose their basic employee rights. Yet under this unfair rule it will not be allowed to come to the floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard for me to believe that just a few weeks after the

war in Iraq, after all of us heaped deserving praise on all employees of the Defense Department, both military and civilian, that we would pull the rug out from underneath these patriotic, hard-working Americans.

Let me make it very clear. A "no" vote will not stop the House from taking up the Department of Defense authorization. However, a "yes" vote amounts to slamming the door in the face of the military's civilian employees.

As you cast your vote, think about these people and whether you will turn your back on them or whether you will do the right thing and vote to allow this amendment.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to the rule on the National Defense Authorization Act. This rule fails to make in order several important Democratic amendments, including the Rahall-Dingell amendment on the environmental provisions in the bill.

The Department of Defense claims that it needs exemptions from five of our major environmental laws—laws that protect the air, water, endangered species, whales, dolphins, and last but not least, humans. The Pentagon says these laws are interfering with military readiness. But the evidence it has presented is at best anecdotal. In a June 2002 study, the Government Accounting Office could find no evidence that environmental protection is a problem for our Armed Forces.

In light of the impressive performance of our men and women in Iraq, any assertion that our military is not ready to fight and win is patently ridiculous. These environmental laws have been in place for several decades, and our Armed Forces are the best trained in the world.

The defense bill that we are debating today rolls back protections in two key environmental laws: the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The DOD bill significantly reduces the Secretary of the Interior's responsibility to designate critical habitat and would greatly weaken protections for endangered species anywhere in the U.S., not just on military facilities. Without critical habitat, imperiled species will not recover. This bill would also specifically reduce protections for endangered species on military lands. For marine mammals, the bill weakens the definition of "harassment" for all users of the oceans and coastal waters, not just for the military. It would also give the DOD unlimited, unmonitored exemptions from marine mammal protection.

The majority has refused to allow us to vote on the Rahall-Dingell amendment to fix these provisions. Why? Because they are afraid they will lose. The American people reject the idea that the federal government should be above the law. A recent Zogby poll showed 84 percent of likely voters think the Pentagon should follow the same environmental and public health laws as everyone else. Liberals, moderates, and conservatives alike agree that all agencies of the federal government should be held accountable for their actions.

Communities across the nation are grappling with the toxic contamination of former bases that used to be exempt from environmental laws. Many of us have decommissioned military facilities in our districts. In my

home city of San Francisco, we have been pushing for years for the clean up of the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard. The military's track record on protecting the environment is dismal. We hold the Department of Defense accountable for its actions in the future.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question, so that we can make the Rahall-Dingell amendment in order, and "no" on the rule.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this unfair rule. I do so because it denies Members the opportunity to offer amendments to critical provisions in the Defense Authorization bill.

National defense should be a subject that brings the Congress and the nation together, and not an occasion to create division. Especially given the clear and present danger of further terrorist attacks against the United States, it is imperative that we remain united as we confront these threats.

I support most of the provisions in this bill. It is unfortunate that the Majority chose to insert a number of highly controversial provisions into the Defense Authorization. In particular, I oppose the provisions of the bill that seek to upend longstanding civil service protections for more than 700,000 civilian workers who are instrumental to supporting our men and women in uniform. Without a competent civilian workforce at the Defense Department to back up our troops, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for our armed forces to prevail on the battlefield.

We are legislating in the dark here. Over the past century, we have established protections to prevent the civil service from becoming a political patronage system. Before we throw these protections in the garbage can, we'd better know what we're doing. The Bush Administration delivered its 205-page legislative proposal to restructure the Pentagon's civilian and military personnel system on April 10, just days before the House adjourned for a two-week recess. These sweeping proposed changes are not well understood and they have the potential for long-term negative consequences.

I want to read an excerpt from a General Accounting Office testimony on these proposed changes to the Pentagon's civilian personnel system. The GAO cautions that "moving too quickly or prematurely [to a new personnel system] at DOD or elsewhere, can significantly raise the risk of doing it wrong. This could also serve to severely set back the legitimate need to move to a more performance- and results-based system for the federal government as a whole. Thus, while it is imperative that we take steps to better link employee pay and other personnel decisions to performance across the federal government, how it is done, when it is done, and the basis on which it is done, can make all the difference in whether or not we are successful." GAO goes on to say that "based on GAO's past work, most existing federal performance appraisal systems, including a vast majority of DOD's systems, are not currently designed to support a meaningful performance-based pay system."

The civil service rules have generally served our country well. Can we improve the Defense Department's civilian personnel rules? Sure. Is this the way to do it? Absolutely not. Such sweeping changes—changes affecting more than 700,000 Defense Department workers—deserve more thoughtful consideration by this

Congress. If these changes are approved, we will find ourselves in the unique position of having one set of personnel rules for civilian defense employees, another set of personnel rules for employees at the Department of Homeland Security, and a third set of rules for every other federal worker.

It's bad enough that the Republican Majority insisted on including these controversial civil service changes in this bill. What's worse is that the Majority will not even allow us to debate them or offer amendments. The House should be permitted to debate the Employee Bill of Rights amendment proposed by Representatives COOPER, DAVIS and VAN HOLLEN. This amendment would protect the right to receive a veterans preference and the right to be free from discrimination based on political opinion or party affiliation. It would ensure that Department of Defense employees have the same collective bargaining rights and due process rights that other federal employees enjoy. These rights are fundamental. They should not be waived or curtailed at the whim of the Defense Secretary, and this House should not be stamped into providing him the authority to do so.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the rule so we can have a fair debate and a vote on the Employee Bill of Rights amendment.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today we continue the Defense Authorization bill debate.

This bill authorizes a total of \$400.5 billion in FY 2004 for defense activities important for our nation's security, however, there are troubling provisions in this bill relating to civil services law, contracting, environmental exemptions and nuclear weapons policy that should not have been included in H.R. 1588.

I'm particularly concerned about the civil service provisions that undermine collective bargaining and safeguards against employee harassment. H.R. 1588 will deny basic worker protections to one third of all Federal Employees. This bill places the Secretary of Defense in the position of being the ultimate decision maker in labor disputes giving him blanket authority to create a completely new civilian employee system. Many of the changes included in this bill will open the way for abuses that the Pendleton Act of 1893 was enacted to eliminate. We may need to modernize, however, we also need to preserve the principles of a Civil Service that has served our nation well for more than 100 years.

I am disappointed that an amendment I offered in the Rules Committee was not made in order. It was a simple amendment that would have ensured that Chief Acquisition Officers are career professionals and not political appointees. I would like to put letters of support from several good government/civil servant groups, including the Federal Managers Association, AFGE, the Senior Executives Association, NTEU, AFSCME and others, into the RECORD.

As AFSCME noted in a letter of support, "H.R. 1588 entrusts the contracting process to political appointees who stay an average of only 18 months and will turn federal contracts into political currency." This wrongheaded provision is a recipe for cronyism and political favoritism!

I am also greatly disappointed that my pro-competition in procurement amendment, offered with Mr. TURNER of Texas, was not made in order. The Maloney-Turner amend-

ment to the Defense Authorization Act would have reapplied certain common-sense, good government procurement rules to the Other Transactions Authority section (Section 1451) of H.R. 1588.

This amendment tried to close a large procurement loophole that is both unnecessary and fraught with potential for abuse.

For some interested in closed-door deals and invitation-only bids, it may be more advantageous to use OT authority rather than a procurement contract, however, it may not be more advantageous for taxpayers.

We are reversing important, settled public policy with this bill. Vote "no" on the rule.

FEDERAL MANAGERS ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, May 19, 2003.

Hon. CAROLYN MALONEY,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN MALONEY: On behalf of the 200,000 executives, managers, and supervisors in the Federal government whose interests are represented by the Federal Managers Association (FMA), I am writing to express our strong support of your amendment to H.R. 1588, the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, requiring that the Federal Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO) position be filled by a career civil servant.

Currently, Section 1421 of H.R. 1588 stipulates that newly appointed CAO's are to be non-career employees, or political appointees. We at FMA believe that Federal agencies and taxpayers would benefit more from the institutional knowledge, expertise, and experience that a career civil servant would bring to this position.

Today, the average tenure of a political appointee is eighteen months, which will result in a revolving door of CAO's in and out of agencies. This situation will only serve to further complicate the structure of the Federal acquisition workforce, while compromising the effectiveness of this critical position due to a lack of stability. Over time, we have already seen detrimental effects on Federal agencies as a result of short-term appointees in leadership positions.

Moreover, Federal acquisition policy is built upon the goal of providing American taxpayers with high-quality products and services through the most efficient use of their tax dollars. In order to achieve this goal, the CAO must be removed from any and all political pressures.

Finally, we at FMA are supportive of the National Commission on the Public Service's (a.k.a., the Volcker Commission named for its chairman, Paul A. Volcker) recent recommendation that, "Congress and the President should work together to significantly reduce the number of executive branch political positions." The requirement that the newly-created CAO positions be filled by non-career employees would only continue the dangerous trend of increasing the number of political appointments—a step at odds with the Commission's recommendation, which has been supported by many Members of Congress.

Sec. 1421 of H.R. 1588 would best serve the American public if amended, as you have recommended, to require that the CAO be a career civil servant.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you to ensure passage of this amendment. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance to you on this matter.

With kindest regards, I am
Sincerely yours,

MICHAEL B. STYLES,
National President.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE,
COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOY-
EES, AFL-CIO,

Washington, DC, May 19, 2003.

Representative CAROLYN MALONEY,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Bldg., Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MALONEY: The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) strongly supports the amendment you seek to offer to the Defense Authorization bill that would require "Chief Acquisition Officers" to be career civil servants.

As presently drafted, H.R. 1588 requires these officers, many of whom would fill newly created positions in the federal agencies, to be political appointees. There is no sound justification for such a proposal. In light of the Administration's announced intention to contract out half the federal workforce, it should be seen for what it is: a strategy to facilitate reaching this goal whether or not it is cost effective or in the public interest.

H.R. 1588 entrusts the contracting process to political appointees who stay an average of only 18 months and will turn federal contracts into political currency. It will diminish public accountability of the public's money; further destroy the morale of committed and experienced career employees; destabilize the delivery of federal services; and lead to the award of billions in contracts to the Administration's political allies and friends with little regard to effective management.

At a time when we should be shoring up the public's faith in our government, H.R. 1588 will return to the corruption and spoils system that the creation of a professional workforce under the civil service system was intended to end.

AFSCME strongly supports your amendment and commends you for seeking to ensure that federal operations are performed in an objective and professional manner that puts the public interest ahead of special interests.

Sincerely,

CHARLES M. LOVELESS,
Director of Legislation.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2003.

Hon. CAROLYN MALONEY,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MALONEY: On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, which represents more than 600,000 federal employees who serve the American people across the nation and around the world, including many federal employees who administer contracts for goods and services, I commend you for your ongoing efforts to amend the Services Acquisition Reform Act (SARA) to ensure that the position of Chief Acquisition Officer is held by career civil servants, and not political appointees.

Your amendment would ensure that an agency's preeminent procurement official would be someone with an institutional interest in promoting the interests of the agency and the taxpayers who support that agency, both over the short-term as well as the long-term. A career civil servant is more likely to have developed the expertise necessary to perform the important responsibilities of the chief acquisition officer. It is unlikely that a political appointee would have the same level of expertise and commitment, especially given the significant turnover generally among political appointees. Ironically, at the same time there is a bipartisan consensus to reduce the number of political

appointees, SARA would add yet another layer of political appointees.

While I know that the authors of SARA have no such intention, you are absolutely correct in your assertion that making the Chief Acquisition Officers political appointees raises significant concerns about cronyism and patronage, a serious concern given ongoing efforts to strip all federal employees of their civil service protections against politics and favoritism. I know that your experience in New York City in the long but ultimately successful fight against waste, fraud and abuse in municipal contracting induced you to offer your amendment to make the Chief Acquisition Officer a career civil servant at the House Government Reform Committee's mark up of SARA earlier this month. Learning from the hard lessons of history, New York City was able to make substantial progress on behalf of taxpayers when procurement officials were made civil servants, instead of political cronies.

The counter-arguments to your amendment that were served up at the mark up were entirely unpersuasive. Whether a Chief Acquisition Officer will command respect from agency management and acquisition personnel will depend entirely on her experience, her expertise, and her independence, and not on whether she is a political appointee. Surely, it is self-evident that a Chief Acquisition Officer is more likely to command respect and be able to perform her important responsibilities if she is a career civil servant.

I sincerely hope that the rule for consideration of the defense authorization bill (H.R. 1588) will allow your amendment to be made in order on the floor of the House of Representatives because its enactment is imperative if the Congress is to ensure that the billions and billions of taxpayer dollars spent annually on services are safeguarded. Please contact John Threlkeld in AFGE's Legislative Department at (202) 639-6413 if you have any questions about the views expressed in this letter.

Sincerely,

BOBBY L. HARNAGE, SR.,
National President.

SENIOR EXECUTIVES ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2003.
Hon. CAROLYN B. MALONEY,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MALONEY: The Senior Executives Association (SEA) represents the interests of career federal executives in the Senior Executives Association (SES), and those in Senior Level (SL), Scientific and Professional (ST), and equivalent positions. We are writing in support of your amendment to H.R. 1588, which would require that a career employee fill the proposed Chief Acquisition Officer position. In contrast, the current bill states that a non-career employee would fill this position.

SEA feels strongly that the role of the Chief Acquisition Officer must be free from any potential allegations of undue political influence. The critical business of government procurement should never lend itself to even a perceived taint of political manipulation. This can best be accomplished by requiring that a qualified career employee fill the position.

In SEA's oral testimony at the April 29, 2003 hearing before the House Civil Service and Agency Organization Subcommittee on "Transforming the Defense Department: Exploring the Merits of the Proposed National Security Personnel System," we emphasized our support for a procurement process free from politicization. For your reference, we have included a copy of the oral testimony from the April 29th hearing with this letter.

Please let us know if there is any way in which we might be of assistance in securing the passage of this critical amendment.

Sincerely,

CAROLY A. BONOSARO,
President.
G. JERRY SHAW,
General Counsel.

STATEMENT OF G. JERRY SHAW, GENERAL COUNSEL, SENIOR EXECUTIVES ASSOCIATION BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE & AGENCY ORGANIZATION, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PROPOSED DEFENSE TRANSFORMATION ACT OF 2003, APRIL 29, 2003

Thank you Chairman Davis and members of the Subcommittee for the opportunity to testify today on this very important legislative proposal.

You have already heard from others about many of the problems and concerns of employees and their representatives about this proposed legislation today. SEA too has its issues. But we will confine our comments to those matters that we believe threaten the integrity of the federal workforce, and specifically of the Senior Executive Service and its cadre of career executives that insure the impartial and non-political, non-partisan enforcement and administration of our nation's laws.

I was watching a "60 Minutes" segment on CBS television last night. It was directly applicable to the proposed legislation and our concerns. It involved allegations by the "60 Minutes" correspondent that there had been improper political interference in the awarding of DoD contracts for the rebuilding effort in Iraq. Specifically it accused Vice President Cheney of "obviously" interfering in the pre-hostilities award of classified contracts to Halliburton Corporation, which he headed prior to becoming Vice President of the US. It also made allegations about former General Officers in the military who were now working for Halliburton and some of the other companies and corporations that received DoD contracts for providing services to the US troops in Iraq, including food service, waste disposal, water, fire fighting, and other necessities. Finally, it sought to cast aspersions on the current Administration and its political leadership for allegedly interfering in these and other rebuilding efforts in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere.

Now we all know that such allegations and innuendo are the lifeblood of "60 Minutes" and other television news shows, and are not to be taken seriously on many occasions; this may well be one of those occasions. But the interesting part was the response by DoD.

Instead of the Secretary of Defense or other high level political appointees responding, DoD had the Chief Counsel of the Dept. of the Army Corps of Engineers, Robert Anderson respond to the allegations. Mr. Anderson is a career member of the Senior Executive Service. He provided an eloquent defense of the procurement process, but his most important and telling statement was that the contract procurement activities were performed by career employees, who would NOT allow DoD or other federal contracts to be awarded on the basis of partisan politics. He stated that if "60 Minutes" or any of the other parties making allegations were to spend one week with these career employees, they would understand how carefully and objectively these contracts were evaluated and awarded, and how the career employees insured the impartiality of the process.

Later in the "60 Minutes" presentation the correspondent states that the Office of the Vice President had issued a statement that he had never been involved in the awarding

or seeking of contracts from the government while he was Secretary of Defense, President of Halliburton or Vice President of the US.

The importance of this is that DoD realized that the integrity of its programs depended on the career executives and career employees who carry out the day-to-day activities of the government. It also knew that if a Career SES employee presented the facts, they would carry more credibility with the public "60 Minutes" was at a loss when confronted with the career employees as the protector of the integrity of the procurement process, and I believe that most of the nation's citizens dismissed out of hand the allegations because of the assurances of the career SES employee, Mr. Anderson.

We relate this incident because we firmly believe that some of the authorities sought by DoD in this legislation could serve to undermine the citizens confidence in the integrity of government operations. This confidence is based in large part on the integrity of the Civil Service system, and the Career Senior Executive leadership of our system. Provisions of this legislation would do away with many of the rights and protections these employees need to maintain their non-partisan integrity, and the people of this country know this. SEA is that this is not intended, but there is always a concern about un-intended consequences. We believe that breadth and depth of the unfettered authority sought by this legislation justifies our, and your concern.

Most of SEA's concerns are stated and supported in our statement, which we have submitted for the record. However, we do want to highlight some of the most important ones.

1. The legislation would do away with the requirement for Career Reserved SES positions, by allowing such positions if allowed to exist, to be filled by anyone, qualified or unqualified, partisan politician or not. This authority is not necessary. OPM has done the job of overseeing and insuring that positions requiring impartiality and non-partisan enforcement of the nation's laws are carried out by career employees who have gained their positions based on merit. We believe this should continue.

2. The legislation would do away with the requirement that career SES appointments be made from persons who meet the qualifications for the job. This too has been done by OPM through the Qualifications Review Board process, which should continue.

3. It would allow for Career Reserved positions to be filled by temporary employees with no review of their qualifications, and no limit on their numbers. We respectfully object to this authority. It also removes the restriction that political appointees may fill no more than 10% of SES positions overall in government, or 25% in any agency. This could destroy the career SES, and rob the government and the people of this country of the impartial administration of our nation's laws and regulations.

4. The legislation would allow the elimination of all appeal rights for career executives and employees to the MSPB if their pay was drastically cut, or they were removed from their positions for alleged misconduct. This would deny these employees any due process rights in the "taking" of their pay, or their positions and reputations.

5. It allows the flexibility to eliminate the SES appointment rules, the 120 get acquainted rule, the rule of 60 days notice for geographic reassignments, and many other rights. It also allows for an SES employees pay to be set annually anywhere between \$125,000 (or lower) up to the VP level of \$198,600 with no oversight, no necessity for 'certification' of a fair evaluation process, or any right on behalf of the employee to chal-

lenge the determination anywhere, including if the pay is cut.

6. It allows the creation of appointments of "highly qualified experts, who could be paid up to 50% higher than the highest SES salary, or currently \$297,900. There would be no limit on the number of these appointments, and they could serve for six years in any position, with no independent check on their qualifications. If a particular DoD administration wished, they could unilaterally fire every one of their career SES employees, and fill these positions with "highly qualified experts" from whatever field, without review of their actions or appointees.

[Currently DoD has such authority for 40 positions at DAPRA, 40 for each of the armed services research labs, and 10 more between NIMA and NSA. However, these are limited to scientific and engineering positions, and the appointees are limited to pay 25% higher than the SES pay, or currently \$248,250. No such limitations are contained in the proposed legislation].

These are but some of our concerns. We urge the Subcommittee to expeditiously amend this proposal to restore the necessary safeguards for career SES employees, and other civil service employees before its enactment.

SEA does not object to additional flexibility for DoD. But we believe the new flexibility should be limited to that provided the Dept. of Homeland Security, and that they be required to go through the same process as Homeland Security before issuing regulations and beginning or implementing new systems in the Dept. of Defense.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

THE NATIONAL TREASURY
EMPLOYEES UNION,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2003.

Hon. CAROLYN MALONEY,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MALONEY, I am writing on behalf of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) to express support for your amendment to the "Defense Authorization Act of FY 2004." Your amendment seeks to fix a flaw in the bill by seeking to ensure that Chief Acquisition Officers are career civil servants, not political appointees.

NTEU represents 150,000 career federal employees in 28 federal agencies and departments. These employees work on the front lines day in and day out, and they are in the best position to determine whether federal government services should be privatized or not. Agencies continue to privatize more and more federal jobs even though the government does not have the staff or systems in place to oversee the work of contractors. Giving short-term political appointees broad authority to privatize the work of the federal government only serves to foster political cronyism, waste taxpayer dollars, and jeopardize the delivery of government services to the American public.

I urge support for your amendment so that government purchasing decisions will be made by experienced and hardworking federal employees who know the needs of their agencies best.

Sincerely,

COLLEEN M. KELLEY,
National President.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the rule.

This bill entirely re-writes two of the cornerstones of environmental policy—the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Yet we will debate this for only 10 minutes.

This rule attempts to conceal an egregious overreach by the Majority by labeling it as a typographical error.

Having been caught with their hands in the cookie jar, the Majority now seeks to establish political cover, prohibit meaningful debate and avoid going on the record with a recorded vote against the environment.

This administration's attempt to enact sweeping environmental exemptions under the guise of "military readiness" is a disgrace.

I am also outraged that the rule has not allowed Mr. SPRATT's amendment on nuclear nonproliferation.

The threat level has been increased to orange, the administration is on the lookout for terrorists and rogue nations with weapons of mass destruction, yet the Majority refuses to allow debate on the most meaningful way to prevent terrorists from getting nuclear weapons in the first place—our long-standing, proven nonproliferation programs.

Mr. Speaker, this is an outrage. I urge my colleagues to vote for the very principles this body was founded upon and vote against this egregious rule.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment and extraneous materials immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The material previously referred to by Mr. FROST is as follows:

PREVIOUS QUESTION FOR H. RES. 247—2ND RULE ON H.R. 1588 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

"SEC. 5. Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution and only immediately after the disposition of amendment numbered 1, the amendment specified in section 6 shall be in order as though printed in the report of the Committee on Rules if offered by Representative Cooper of Tennessee or a designee. That amendment shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

SEC. 6. The amendment referred to in section 5 is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1588, AS REPORTED OFFERED BY MR. COOPER OF TENNESSEE OR MR. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS OR MR. VAN HOLLEN OF MARYLAND

In section 9902 of title 5, United States Code (as added by section 1111 of the bill (page 349, line 13)), insert after subsection (b) the following new subsection (and make all necessary technical and conforming changes):

"(c) EMPLOYEE BILL OF RIGHTS.—

"(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

"(A) the Department of Defense should have flexibilities in personnel decisions, including pay and promotion, in order to provide the strongest possible national defense; and

"(B) the Department of Defense should protect fundamental civil service protections of civilian employees at the Department.

"(2) CIVIL SERVICE PROTECTIONS.—

"(A) The right of an employee to receive a veterans preference in hiring and a reduction in force, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this subsection, shall not be abridged.

"(B) An employee shall have the right to be free from favoritism or discrimination in

connection with hiring, tenure, promotion, or other conditions of employment due to the employee's political opinion or affiliation.

"(C) The Secretary shall not refuse to bargain in good faith with a labor organization, except as provided in section 9902(f) (relating to bargaining at the national rather than local level), and shall submit negotiation impasses to—

"(i) an impartial panel; or

"(ii) an alternative dispute resolution procedure agreed upon by the parties;

"(D) An employee shall have the right to full and fair compensation for overtime, other time worked that is not part of a regular workweek schedule, and pay for hazardous work assignments.

"(E) An employee shall have the right to form, join, or assist any labor organization, or to refrain from any such activity, freely and without fear of penalty or reprisal. Such right includes the right to engage in collective bargaining with respect to conditions of employment through representatives chosen by employees.

"(F) An employee against whom removal or suspension for more than 14 days is proposed shall have a right to—

"(i) reasonable advance notice stating specific reasons for the proposed action, unless there is reasonable cause to believe that such employee has committed a crime or immediate action is necessary in the interests of national security;

"(ii) reasonable time to answer orally or in writing; and

"(iii) representation by an attorney or other representative.

"(G) An employee shall have a right to appeal actions involving alleged discrimination to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

"(H) An employee shall have a right to back pay and attorney fees if the employee is the prevailing party in an appeal of a removal or suspension."

Strike 9902(f)(2)(D) of title 5, United States Code (as so added) (and make all necessary technical and conforming changes).

□ 1300

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, did the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST) yield back his time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). All time has expired.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting, if ordered, on the question of adoption of the resolution and thereafter on the motions to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1683 and H.R. 1257.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays

198, answered "present" 1, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 207]

YEAS—224

Aderholt	Gerlach	Nussle
Akin	Gibbons	Osborne
Bachus	Gilchrest	Ose
Baker	Gillmor	Otter
Ballenger	Gingrey	Oxley
Barrett (SC)	Goode	Paul
Bartlett (MD)	Goodlatte	Pearce
Barton (TX)	Goss	Pence
Bass	Granger	Peterson (PA)
Beauprez	Graves	Petri
Bereuter	Green (WI)	Pickering
Biggert	Greenwood	Pitts
Billakis	Gutknecht	Platts
Bishop (UT)	Harris	Pombo
Blackburn	Hart	Porter
Blunt	Hastings (WA)	Pryce (OH)
Boehlert	Hayes	Putnam
Boehner	Hayworth	Radanovich
Bonner	Hefley	Ramstad
Bono	Hensarling	Regula
Boozman	Herger	Rehberg
Bradley (NH)	Hobson	Renzi
Brady (TX)	Hoekstra	Reynolds
Brown (SC)	Hostettler	Rogers (AL)
Brown-Waite,	Houghton	Rogers (KY)
Ginny	Hulshof	Rogers (MI)
Burgess	Hunter	Rohrabacher
Burns	Hyde	Ros-Lehtinen
Burr	Isakson	Royce
Burton (IN)	Issa	Ryan (WI)
Buyer	Istook	Ryun (KS)
Calvert	Janklow	Saxton
Camp	Jenkins	Schrock
Cannon	Johnson (CT)	Sensenbrenner
Cantor	Johnson (IL)	Sessions
Capito	Johnson, Sam	Shadeegg
Carter	Jones (NC)	Shaw
Castle	Keller	Shays
Chabot	Kelly	Sherwood
Chocola	Kennedy (MN)	Shimkus
Coble	King (IA)	Shuster
Cole	King (NY)	Simmons
Collins	Kingston	Simpson
Cox	Kirk	Smith (MI)
Crane	Kline	Smith (NJ)
Crenshaw	Knollenberg	Smith (TX)
Cubin	Kolbe	Souder
Culberson	LaHood	Stearns
Cunningham	Latham	Sullivan
Davis, Jo Ann	LaTourrette	Sweeney
Davis, Tom	Leach	Tancredo
Deal (GA)	Lewis (CA)	Tauzin
DeLay	Lewis (KY)	Taylor (NC)
DeMint	Linder	Terry
Diaz-Balart, L.	LoBiondo	Thomas
Diaz-Balart, M.	Lucas (OK)	Thornberry
Doolittle	Manzullo	Tiahrt
Dreier	McCotter	Tiberi
Duncan	McCrery	Toomey
Dunn	McHugh	Turner (OH)
Ehlers	McInnis	Upton
Emerson	McKeon	Vitter
English	Mica	Walden (OR)
Everett	Miller (FL)	Walsh
Feeney	Miller (MI)	Wamp
Ferguson	Miller, Gary	Weldon (FL)
Flake	Moran (KS)	Weldon (PA)
Fletcher	Murphy	Weller
Foley	Musgrave	Whitfield
Forbes	Myrick	Wicker
Fossella	Nethercutt	Wilson (NM)
Franks (AZ)	Ney	Wilson (SC)
Frelinghuysen	Northup	Wolf
Galleghy	Norwood	Young (AK)
Garrett (NJ)	Nunes	Young (FL)

NAYS—198

Abercrombie	Blumenauer	Conyers
Ackerman	Boswell	Cooper
Alexander	Boucher	Costello
Allen	Boyd	Cramer
Andrews	Brady (PA)	Crowley
Baca	Brown (OH)	Cummings
Baird	Brown, Corrine	Davis (AL)
Baldwin	Capps	Davis (CA)
Ballance	Capuano	Davis (FL)
Becerra	Cardin	Davis (IL)
Bell	Cardoza	Davis (TN)
Berkley	Carson (IN)	DeFazio
Berman	Carson (OK)	DeGette
Berry	Case	Delahunt
Bishop (GA)	Clay	DeLauro
Bishop (NY)	Clyburn	Deutsch

Dicks	Langevin	Price (NC)
Dingell	Lantos	Rahall
Doggett	Larsen (WA)	Reyes
Dooley (CA)	Larson (CT)	Rodriguez
Doyle	Lee	Ross
Edwards	Levin	Rothman
Emanuel	Lipinski	Roybal-Allard
Engel	Lofgren	Ruppersberger
Eshoo	Lowey	Rush
Etheridge	Lucas (KY)	Ryan (OH)
Evans	Lynch	Sabo
Fattah	Majette	Sanchez, Linda
Filner	Maloney	T.
Ford	Markey	Sanchez, Loretta
Frank (MA)	Marshall	Sanders
Frost	Matheson	Sandlin
Gonzalez	Matsui	Schakowsky
Gordon	McCarthy (MO)	Schiff
Green (TX)	McCarthy (NY)	Scott (GA)
Grijalva	McCollum	Scott (VA)
Gutierrez	McDermott	Serrano
Hall	McGovern	Sherman
Harman	McIntyre	Skelton
Hastings (FL)	McNulty	Slaughter
Hill	Meehan	Smith (WA)
Hinchey	Meeks (NY)	Snyder
Hinojosa	Menendez	Spratt
Hoefl	Michaud	Stark
Holden	Millender-	Stenholm
Holt	McDonald	Strickland
Honda	Miller (NC)	Stupak
Hooley (OR)	Miller, George	Tanner
Hoyer	Mollohan	Tauscher
Inlee	Moore	Taylor (MS)
Israel	Moran (VA)	Thompson (CA)
Jackson (IL)	Murtha	Thompson (MS)
Jackson-Lee	Nadler	Tierney
(TX)	Napolitano	Towns
Jefferson	Neal (MA)	Turner (TX)
John	Oberstar	Udall (NM)
Johnson, E. B.	Obey	Van Hollen
Jones (OH)	Olver	Velazquez
Kanjorski	Ortiz	Visclosky
Kaptur	Owens	Waters
Kennedy (RI)	Pallone	Watt
Kildee	Pascarell	Waxman
Kilpatrick	Pastor	Weiner
Kind	Payne	Wexler
Klecza	Pelosi	Woolsey
Kucinich	Peterson (MN)	Wu
Lampson	Pomeroy	Wynn

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Farr

NOT VOTING—11

Bonilla	Meek (FL)	Solis
Combest	Portman	Udall (CO)
Gephardt	Quinn	Watson
Lewis (GA)	Rangel	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes left to vote.

□ 1319

Messrs. ALEXANDER, CAPUANO and CARDOZA changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 207 on the previous question I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 222, noes 199,

answered "present" 2, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 208]

AYES—222

Aderholt	Gibbons	Osborne
Akin	Gilchrest	Ose
Bachus	Gillmor	Otter
Baker	Gingrey	Paul
Ballenger	Goode	Pearce
Barrett (SC)	Goodlatte	Pence
Bartlett (MD)	Goss	Peterson (PA)
Barton (TX)	Granger	Petri
Bass	Graves	Pickering
Beauprez	Green (WI)	Pitts
Bereuter	Greenwood	Platts
Biggert	Gutknecht	Pombo
Billirakis	Harris	Porter
Bishop (UT)	Hart	Portman
Blackburn	Hastings (WA)	Pryce (OH)
Blunt	Hayes	Putnam
Boehlert	Hayworth	Radanovich
Boehner	Hefley	Ramstad
Bonner	Hensarling	Regula
Bono	Herger	Rehberg
Boozman	Hobson	Renzi
Bradley (NH)	Hoekstra	Reynolds
Brady (TX)	Hostettler	Rogers (AL)
Brown (SC)	Houghton	Rogers (KY)
Brown-Waite,	Hulshof	Rogers (MI)
Ginny	Hyde	Rohrabacher
Burgess	Isakson	Ros-Lehtinen
Burns	Issa	Royce
Burr	Istook	Ryan (WI)
Burton (IN)	Janklow	Ryun (KS)
Buyer	Jenkins	Saxton
Calvert	Johnson (CT)	Schrock
Camp	Johnson (IL)	Sensenbrenner
Cannon	Johnson, Sam	Shadegg
Capito	Jones (NC)	Shaw
Carter	Keller	Shays
Castle	Kelly	Sherwood
Chabot	Kennedy (MN)	Shimkus
Chocola	King (IA)	Shuster
Coble	King (NY)	Simmons
Cole	Kingston	Simpson
Collins	Kirk	Smith (MI)
Cox	Kline	Smith (NJ)
Crane	Knollenberg	Smith (TX)
Crenshaw	Kolbe	Souder
Cubin	LaHood	Sullivan
Culberson	Latham	Sweeney
Davis, Jo Ann	LaTourette	Tancredo
Davis, Tom	Leach	Tauzin
Deal (GA)	Lewis (CA)	Taylor (NC)
DeLay	Lewis (KY)	Terry
DeMint	Linder	Thomas
Diaz-Balart, L.	LoBiondo	Thornberry
Diaz-Balart, M.	Lucas (OK)	Tiahrt
Doolittle	Manzullo	Tiberi
Dreier	McCotter	Toomey
Duncan	McCrery	Turner (OH)
Dunn	McHugh	Upton
Ehlers	McInnis	Vitter
Emerson	McKeon	Walden (OR)
English	Mica	Walsh
Everett	Miller (FL)	Wamp
Feeney	Miller (MI)	Weldon (FL)
Ferguson	Miller, Gary	Weldon (PA)
Flake	Moran (KS)	Weller
Fletcher	Murphy	Whitfield
Foley	Musgrave	Wicker
Forbes	Myrick	Wilson (NM)
Fossella	Nethercutt	Wilson (SC)
Franks (AZ)	Ney	Wolf
Frelinghuysen	Northup	Young (AK)
Gallegly	Norwood	Young (FL)
Garrett (NJ)	Nunes	
Gerlach	Nussle	

NOES—199

Abercrombie	Blumenauer	Conyers
Ackerman	Boswell	Cooper
Alexander	Boucher	Costello
Allen	Boyd	Cramer
Andrews	Brady (PA)	Crowley
Baca	Brown (OH)	Cummings
Baird	Brown, Corrine	Davis (AL)
Baldwin	Capps	Davis (CA)
Ballance	Capuano	Davis (FL)
Becerra	Cardin	Davis (IL)
Bell	Cardoza	Davis (TN)
Berkley	Carson (IN)	DeFazio
Berman	Carson (OK)	DeGette
Berry	Case	Delahunt
Bishop (GA)	Clay	DeLauro
Bishop (NY)	Clyburn	Deutsch

Dicks	Lantos	Rodriguez
Dingell	Larsen (WA)	Ross
Doggett	Larson (CT)	Rothman
Dooley (CA)	Lee	Roybal-Allard
Doyle	Levin	Ruppersberger
Edwards	Lipinski	Rush
Emanuel	Lowey	Ryan (OH)
Engel	Lucas (KY)	Sabo
Eshoo	Lynch	Sanchez, Linda
Etheridge	Majette	T.
Evans	Maloney	Sanchez, Loretta
Fattah	Markey	Sanders
Filner	Marshall	Sandlin
Ford	Matheson	Schakowsky
Frank (MA)	Matsui	Schiff
Frost	McCarthy (MO)	Scott (GA)
Gonzalez	McCarthy (NY)	Scott (VA)
Gordon	McCollum	Serrano
Green (TX)	McDermott	Sherman
Grijalva	McGovern	Skelton
Gutierrez	McIntyre	Slaughter
Hall	McNulty	Smith (WA)
Harman	Meehan	Snyder
Hastings (FL)	Meeks (NY)	Spratt
Hill	Menendez	Stark
Hinchev	Michaud	Stearns
Hinojosa	Millender-	Stenholm
Hoefel	McDonald	Strickland
Holden	Miller (NC)	
Holt	Miller, George	Stupak
Honda	Mollohan	Tanner
Hooley (OR)	Moore	Tauscher
Hoyer	Moran (VA)	Taylor (MS)
Inslee	Murtha	Thompson (CA)
Israel	Nadler	Thompson (MS)
Jackson (IL)	Napolitano	Tierney
Jackson-Lee	Neal (MA)	Towns
(TX)	Oberstar	Turner (TX)
Jefferson	Obey	Udall (NM)
John	Olver	Van Hollen
Johnson, E. B.	Ortiz	Velazquez
Jones (OH)	Owens	Visclosky
Kanjorski	Pallone	Waters
Kaptur	Pascrell	Watson
Kennedy (RI)	Pastor	Watt
Kildee	Payne	Waxman
Kilpatrick	Pelosi	Weiner
Kind	Peterson (MN)	Wexler
Klecza	Pomeroy	Woolsey
Kucinich	Price (NC)	Wu
Lampson	Rahall	Wynn
Langevin	Reyes	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Farr Lofgren

NOT VOTING—11

Bonilla	Lewis (GA)	Rangel
Combest	Meek (FL)	Solis
Cunningham	Oxley	Udall (CO)
Gephardt	Quinn	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1328

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 208 on H. Res. 247, providing for consideration of H.R. 1588, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I was inadvertently delayed in reaching the floor and as a result was not recorded on two votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 207, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 247, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 208, on adoption of H. Res. 247, I would have voted "no."

□ 1330

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1683.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1683, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 426, nays 0, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 209]

YEAS—426

Abercrombie	Clay	Gerlach
Ackerman	Clyburn	Gibbons
Aderholt	Coble	Gilchrest
Akin	Cole	Gillmor
Alexander	Collins	Gingrey
Allen	Conyers	Gonzalez
Andrews	Cooper	Goode
Baca	Costello	Goodlatte
Bachus	Cox	Gordon
Baird	Cramer	Goss
Baker	Crane	Granger
Baldwin	Crenshaw	Graves
Ballance	Crowley	Green (TX)
Ballenger	Cubin	Green (WI)
Barrett (SC)	Culberson	Greenwood
Bartlett (MD)	Cummings	Grijalva
Barton (TX)	Cunningham	Gutierrez
Bass	Davis (AL)	Gutknecht
Beauprez	Davis (CA)	Hall
Becerra	Davis (FL)	Harman
Bell	Davis (IL)	Harris
Bereuter	Davis (TN)	Hart
Berkley	Davis, Jo Ann	Hastings (FL)
Berman	Davis, Tom	Hastings (WA)
Berry	Deal (GA)	Hayes
Biggert	DeFazio	Hayworth
Billirakis	DeGette	Hefley
Bishop (GA)	Delahunt	Hensarling
Bishop (NY)	DeLauro	Herger
Bishop (UT)	DeLay	Hill
Blackburn	DeMint	Hinchev
Blumenauer	Deutsch	Hinojosa
Blunt	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hobson
Boehlert	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hoefel
Boehner	Dicks	Hoekstra
Bonner	Dingell	Holden
Bono	Doggett	Holt
Boozman	Dooley (CA)	Honda
Boswell	Doolittle	Hooley (OR)
Boucher	Doyle	Hostettler
Boyd	Dreier	Houghton
Bradley (NH)	Duncan	Hoyer
Brady (PA)	Dunn	Hulshof
Brady (TX)	Edwards	Hunter
Brown (OH)	Ehlers	Hyde
Brown (SC)	Emanuel	Inslee
Brown, Corrine	Emerson	Isakson
Brown-Waite,	Engel	Israel
Ginny	English	Issa
Burgess	Eshoo	Istook
Burns	Etheridge	Jackson (IL)
Burr	Evans	Jackson-Lee
Burton (IN)	Everett	(TX)
Buyer	Farr	Janklow
Calvert	Fattah	Jefferson
Camp	Feeney	Jenkins
Cannon	Ferguson	John
Cantor	Filner	Johnson (CT)
Capito	Flake	Johnson (IL)
Capps	Fletcher	Johnson, E. B.
Capuano	Foley	Johnson, Sam
Cardin	Forbes	Jones (NC)
Cardoza	Ford	Jones (OH)
Carson (IN)	Fossella	Kanjorski
Carson (OK)	Frank (MA)	Kaptur
Carter	Franks (AZ)	Keller
Case	Frelinghuysen	Kelly
Castle	Frost	Kennedy (MN)
Chabot	Gallegly	Kennedy (RI)
Chocola	Garrett (NJ)	Kildee